REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-17, 19, and 20 stand rejected. Claims 9 and 11 have been amended.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's indication that claims 18, 21 and 22 comprise allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten as suggested in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claim rejections based on the above amendments and following remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-3, 9-11 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Okunaga (U.S. Patent 5,412,333). At the very minimum, claims 1, 9, and 20 are patentably distinct and patentable over Okunaga because Okunaga does not disclose or suggest, for example, *an electrically isolated power pin that is connected to an option pad such that a control signal can be transmitted to the option pad via the electrically isolated power pin*, as essentially claimed in claims 1, 9, and 20.

Although Okunaga discloses (in Figs. 2 and 4) a pad (14, 24) that is optionally connected to ground pin GNDPIN or a power source lead pin VDDPIN, Okunaga does *not* disclose or suggest that VDDPIN or GNDPIN the ground pin is *electrically isolated* from a plurality of commonly connected power transmitting pins or ground pins. Indeed, to begin, there is *nothing* in Okunaga that *explicitly* discloses that VDDPIN or GNDPIN are electrically isolated from other power or ground pins.

Moreover, there is *nothing* in Okunaga that suggests such pins are electrically isolated. In particular, by way of example, Okunaga discloses (in Figs. 1, 2 and 4) that a DC voltage (VDD or ground) can be connected to a pad (44, 14 and 24) via a power source or a ground line

for selecting one of a plurality of available functions. If one of the power pins (or ground pins) were electrically isolated from other power pins (or ground pins), the bonding pad would not have to be *optionally* connected to a power pin or a ground pin (i.e. VDDPIN or GNDPIN) as taught by Okunaga (see e.g. Abstract). In other words, there would be no need to select between a ground pin or power pin to provide the necessary voltage to select a function as taught by Okunaga if one isolated power pin or ground pin was used to input the needed voltage to the option pad. However, in Okunaga, assuming the option pad is connected to a power pin (VDDPIN), a ground voltage (e.g., 0V) could not be applied to such power pin because it would effectively short out the power supply.

Therefore, it is clear that Okunaga does not disclose or suggest *an electrically isolated power pin that is connected to an option pad such that a control signal can be transmitted to the option pad via the electrically isolated power pin*, as essentially claimed in claims 1, 9, and 20.

Furthermore, with respect to claims 9 and 20, Okunaga does not disclose or suggest *an electrically isolated power pin connected to an option pad for transmitting a test control signal to the option pad*, as essentially claimed in claims 9 and 20. Indeed, as noted above, Okunaga merely discloses (in Figs. 1, 2, and 4) connecting a DC voltage (VDD or ground) to a pad (44, 14, 24) via a power source or a ground line for selecting one of a plurality of available functions. The DC voltages for selecting one of a plurality of functions as taught by Okunaga cannot be reasonably construed as test control signals.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, Okunaga does not anticipate claims 1, 9 and 20. Claims 2-8 and 21 depend from claim 1. Claims 10-19 depend from claim 9. Claim 22 depend from claim 20. As such these dependent claims are believed to be patentably distinguished and patentable over Okunaga for at least the same reasons given above for

respective base claims 1, 9, and 20. Therefore, withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

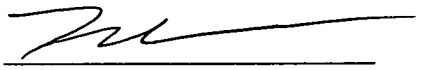
Claims 4-8, 12-16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okunaga in view of Seo at al. (US Pat. 5,768, 173). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okunaga in view of Rosenthal (US Pat. 5,051,615). .

Each of these obviousness rejections is based, in part, on the contention that Okunaga discloses the elements of claims 1 and 9. Since Okunaga does not disclose or suggest the elements of claims 1 and 9 as discussed above, the obviousness rejections are legally deficient on their face. Therefore, the dependent claims 4-8, 12-16, and 19 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for respective base claims 1 and 9.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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